

REMARKS

I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Claims 11-13 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled. Claims 1-27 remain in the application. Although claims 6, 7 and 9-27 were previously withdrawn from consideration, it appears that claims 6, 7 and 9-27 have now been examined. As such, the “withdrawn” designation has been removed. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 1-10 and 16-27 have been allowed and that the Office Action indicated that claims 11-15 are in condition for allowance but for the formalistic issues discussed below.

II. FORMALISTIC ISSUES

Claims 11-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed because one of ordinary skill in the art who had reviewed the present application would have understood what was defined by claim 11 prior to the amendment above, and would have realized that the uses of the phrase “distal member” in claims 12 and 13 were merely typographical errors. [Note Figure 18 and the specification at page 24, line 6 to page 25, line 26.] Those issues notwithstanding, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been obviated by the amendment above. More specifically, the phrase “that is” has been added to line 4 of claim 11, and the phrase “distal member” has been changed to “outer member” in claims 12 and 13. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 should, therefore, be withdrawn.

III. CLOSING REMARKS

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call applicant's undersigned representative at (310) 563-1458 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0638. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

/Craig A. Slavin/
Craig A. Slavin
Reg. No. 35,362
Attorney for Applicant

Henricks, Slavin & Holmes LLP
840 Apollo Street, Suite 200
El Segundo, CA 90245
(310) 563-1458
(310) 563-1460 (Facsimile)